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ness as usual' in war time would not in the least hesitate to send their own sons to the front. They do not seem to realize that their behavior in the conduct of their business increases the risk of the lives of their own enlisted sons. The cattle raiser who wishes to take advantage of high speculation prices of livestock, the wheat grower who desires to obtain the profits to be derived from unrestricted competitive buying by the frenzied nation at war, the laborer who attempts to force the highest wage on the basis of supply and demand, and the coal operator who capitalizes the contest between industrial and fireside demands for coal, all fail to visualize the situation as it actually exists and do not realize that their point of view jeopardizes the successful carrying on the war."

H. R. M. LANDIS.

Philadelphia, Pa.

NICHOLSON, J. SHIELD. *War Finance*. Pp. xxiv, 480. Price 10s, 6d. London: P. S. King and Son, Ltd., 1917.

This is a collection of articles written for various publications, particularly the *Scotsman*, from 1912 to 1917 inclusive. The title *War Finance*, is applicable to most of the papers but is not entirely accurate for all of them. Some of the views expressed by Professor Nicholson in the earlier articles must necessarily be modified in the light of later events, but his general contention expressed in the preface is defended throughout and is worth quoting as a summary of the book:

"The root evil of our financial policy has been the extravagant payment made by the state for all the services required for the War, whether of capital or labour—always excepting the labour of the actual fighting. The extravagance has only been made possible by inflation. The fruits of the evil are the waste of national resources, the increase in the inequities of distribution, and, worst of all, a degradation of the soul of the nation."

E. M. P.

POLITICAL SCIENCE

FREUND, ERNST. *Standards of American Legislation*. Pp. xx, 327. Price, \$1.50. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1917.

The failure of the common law to adjust itself readily to changing social conditions has set for legislation the task of giving more immediate legal effect to new concepts of right and wrong, and of the public good. Social legislation, in working to this end, has been retarded by adverse decisions of the courts asserting unconstitutionality under the due-process clause. The violation of the right is found, not in the fact of regulation, but that the regulation is unreasonable. The boundaries of the field of rights protected by this clause are nowhere defined with precision. What is applied as a test in such cases is not a fixed but a variable standard called reasonableness. It is a sliding scale, the length of which at any application depends upon the social and economic views of the persons at the moment composing the court. It is not, then, a test of principle but of policy which is applied. This policy is implied and hence is judge-made, and is indefinite in extent. Furthermore, the judicial test is destructive, not constructive.